Salient Features of Agreement Between Doordarshan and CNN.

163. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATUVEDI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the salient features of the recent agreement between Doordarshan and CNN and what are the details of the financial arrangements made therein;

(b) whether Government had made similar offers to other foreign Television Companies; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for confining to CNN only; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government on the clipping shown by CNN on the opening day depicting a poor picture of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) The salient features of the agreement between Doordarshan and Turner International Inc., U.S.A. are as given in the enclosed statement, *(see* below)

(b) No, Sir. The interest in entering into a tie-up with Doordarshan was evinced by a number of foreign companies inlcuding Turner International Inc., U.S.A. whose terms were found most acceptable.

(c) Government has taken note of the unqualified regret expressed by Turner International Inc., U.S.A for the said promotional headline.

Statement

The Salient Features of the Agreement Between Doordarshan and Turner International Inc., U.S.A are as Follows:

(i) The tern of the agreement is 2 years.

(ii) Doordarshan will provide uninterrupted access 24 hours a day to the INS AT 2B, C-Band transponder along-with uplink and donwljnk facilities to the CNNI service.

(iii) The DD/CNN channel will carry a minimum of two and a maximum of eight half hours of original news and current affairs programme per day provided by Doordarshan.

(iv) Doordarshan will provide Turner International a minimum of one hour transmission time daily terrestrially on cither DD-1, DD-2 or DD-3 for Turner International/entertainment or current affairs programming. This shall be subject to Doordarshan's editorial control. Doordarshan's decision will be final and binding on the acceptability or otherwise of such programmes.

(v) Turner International will pay Doordarshan and annual telecast fee of US $ 1,500,000 (one million five hundred thousand dollars).

(vi) Turner International will pay Doordarshan 50% of the additional net revenue over and above the first one million five hundred thousand dollars from the said satellite channel.

(vii) Turner International will pay Doordarshan 50% of the net advertising revenue derived from Turner Inter-nation's programming carried on the DD-3 channel.

(viii) Turner Internationals will pay Doordarshan 65% of the net advertising revenue derived from Turner Inter-nation's programming carried on the DD-1 and DD-2 channels.

(ix) Turner International will do the marketing of all CNNI and TI programming.

(x) The advertising time on the satellite channel will range from 2 minutes an hour for the CNNI service to 4 minutes an hour for DD programming.

(xi) Turner International will be allowed 4 minutes an hour of the advertising time on its programming relayed terrestrially on DD-1, DD-2 and DD-3.

(xii) Doordarshan and Turner International will not exercise any editorial control on each others programming on the satellite channel. However, ill programmes will conform to Doordarshan's broadcast and advertisement code.

(xiii) Doordarshan and Turner International will provide to each other news, information stories and footage from each others programming. Turner will pay the requisite delivery charges to Doordarshan for this purpose. There will be no such corresponding obligation on Doordarshan.

(xiv) Turner International will provide on a fee basis to Doordarshan assistance in its international news gathering operations outside India.

Schemes for Weavers in Andhra Pradesh

164. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new Schemes have been finalised for weavers in Andhra Pradesh for 1995-96;

(b) whether Government have consulted the State Government in finalish-ing such a Plan for weavers; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to assist the weavers in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) The Schemes of handloom sector are Generally not State specific. All State Governments and Union Territories are eligible for assistance under these Schemes. During 1995-96, the Hank Yarn Price Subsidy Scheme has been continued and the scope of Mill Gate Price Scheme enlarged in order to ensure better availability of hank yarn to weavers in all States including Andhra Pradesh. A Scheme has also been announced during the current year to assist the weavers in marketing of their products through Regional & District level fairs, festival and sacred baths. The rates of Market Development Assistance in respect of Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies have also been suitably stepped up w.e.f. 1.4.1995. The weavers of Andhra Pradesh can avail assistance under the above Schemes.

(c) Central assistance is released on the basis of proposal received from the State Governments. Central assistance has progressively increased to Andhra Pradesh over the years. A sum of Rs. 21.78 crores was released to Andhra Pradesh during 1992-93; Rs. 30.63 crores during 1993-94 and Rs. 32.44 crores during 1994-95. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been advised to send adequate number of Project Proposals for Central assistance under various Schemes during 1995-96.

Classifying Licence Fee Payable to DOT as "Deductible Income" under I.T. Act

165. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals have been received from prospective licences for Basic Telephone services for classifying the licence fee payable to D.O.T. as "deductible income" under the Income Tax Act;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals;

(c) the potential loss of revenue during the licence period of 15 years;

(d) the view taken by Government on granting such concessions; and

(e) the practice followed by countries like USA and Britain in treating of such lincence fees under their respective Income Tax Laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY); (a)